

OPRA All-hands Meeting
January 28, 2016

GROUP	UNIT CHIEF	NEW STAFF	KEY WORK
UIC	Douglas Minter	None	<u>Dewey Burdock Uranium ISR Project</u> The UIC Unit, in collaboration with senior leadership, recently completed several inform and educate sessions for tribes on a variety of topics related to the proposed Dewey Burdock uranium ISR project. Recognizing that the project site is located in the Black Hills in an area sacred to many tribes, we recently invited 38 tribal nations in/outside the Region to formally consult on our pending UIC permitting actions. To date, eight tribal nations have accepted our invitation, and meetings between the Deputy RA/Acting ARA for OPRA and Tribal Chairs and their representatives are being scheduled over the next several weeks. These permits are EPA's first in the nation for directly regulating uranium recovery operations and will ensure the underground sources of drinking water around the project site are protected during the operational and restoration phases of the project.
WW	Colleen Rathbone	None	<p>Issuance of O&G Permits on the Wind River Indian Reservation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We reached settlement on 5 appealed O&G permits on the Wind River Reservation and maintained the precedent-setting provisions to 1) use tribally-adopted water quality standards to set limits and 2) require disclosure of well treatment fluids which are discharged. These provisions improve protection of water quality. The Wastewater Unit is now modifying those permits per the settlement agreement. In the third quarter we will begin working on the reissuance of additional oil and gas permits on the WRIR, incorporating the same provisions resolved during the appeals process.
DW2	Sarah Bahrman	None	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Drinking Water Mass Mailing – This is a major effort that the program completes annually where we set the monitoring requirements for each of the 1,000 water systems we oversee based on sample results from the previous year and other factors. We email a customized list of requirements to each water system operator. We also write a newsletter letting operators know about any new regulations, hot topics, or other key information to help them stay in compliance. Sylvia Bienzle does a fabulous job coordinating this project. Harmful Algae Blooms - Cyanobacteria blooms can produce toxic compounds (or “cyanotoxins”) that are harmful to the environment, animals and human health. OW published health advisories for two cyanotoxins in June 2015, and the Region 8 DW program has developed a recommended response strategy for water operators to follow if they

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			experience an algae bloom. The Region 8 lab will be providing analytical support this summer for both drinking water and recreational waters to help determine whether blooms seen around the region are toxin-forming. Bob Clement and Bob Benson have been leading this project for DW, with involvement from several others as well.
DW1	Lisa Kahn	None	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implementation of the Revised Total Coliform Rule for Wyoming and Tribal Water Systems. This new rule is effective April 1, 2016 for every public water system across the country, including the 1000 water systems in WY and Indian country. We are busy preparing the water operators for these changes, creating new reporting forms and trying to get the database to manage new violations. The RTCR will result in greater public health protection from microbial contamination in public water systems. This project is being led by Breann Bockstahler. 2. Preparation for the 2016 Sanitary Survey Season for Wyoming and Tribal Water Systems. Region 8 conducts about 250 on-site sanitary survey evaluations of public water systems in WY and Indian country each year. In preparation for the 2016 season, we are evaluating the survey forms and our policy decisions that identify the Significant Deficiencies that we require the water systems to correct. The sanitary surveys are a foundational aspect of our Direct Implementation work, and the follow-up actions help ensure that water systems are operated and maintained in a way that prevents contamination of the water supply. About half of the staff in the two Drinking Water Units spend at least part of their time managing the sanitary surveys in Wyoming and Indian country, with Jim Gindelberger, Mindy Mohr and Tiffany Mifflin in the lead.
TFS	Minnie Adams (acting)	None	<p>Water Finance Center Pilot Project, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Montana</p> <p>We worked with our Agency's newly formed Water Finance Center and the Montana office recently to identify a tribal community that would receive technical assistance under the Center's Water Community Assistance for Resiliency and Excellence (WaterCARE). The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) of the Flathead Reservation was selected, and the Tribes will receive assistance from financial experts as they plan to replace aging infrastructure which is causing violations of the Safe Drinking Water Act.</p>